

Indians to Get Citizenship--Commission Will Divide Reservations Into Classes--New Solution of Vexed Problem



A Competent.

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

Washington, D. C., August 20.—To facilitate the erstwhile slow and tedious process of making citizens and voters out of the nation's copper wards, the Indian Bureau has hit upon the idea of the "competency commission."

Sitting amid the bustling tepees of the appointed reservation, this tribunal will separate the sheep from the goats, and then again, the near-goats from the goats proper.

It will have Poor Lo before it and sound his business knowledge, his skill at finance high and low, his ability to cope with the land grafter, the gold-brick artist and the green goods broker. It will also take a squint at his morals—his ideas as to meum and teum, and as to the number of wives of his bosom the law prescribes. It will look him up and down and crosswise, and if he gets a clean bill of health he will then be given his allotment of the tribal land, in fee simple and all that, with his citizenship thrown in, which means that so long as he remains sane and solvent in the land that the Lord gave and the Lord took away, he can attend to his own business without the say so of his Great White Father or any of his minions who sit upon the seats of his might in Washington. It also means that he becomes entitled to the sacred and oft most profitable privileges of the ballot, save in one or two States barring his vote and another where he may run against the "grandfather clause" aimed at the image of his maker in ebony instead of copper, but yet operative against the latter as well.

But, having been tried only to be found wanting, he must be listed as either an incompetent or a probationer, though never, of necessity, a hopeless member of either category.

A Circumspect Triumvirate. A circumspect triumvirate will be his judges—men well versed in American ways, aboriginal and well posted on the problem of the red man, practical and theoretical. In the center of the bench will sit the reservation superintendent, that overlord of the tribesman, who came to them by running the gamut of the civil service and his near-a-functionary selected on his merits to replace the old-time "Indian agent" chosen because of political pull



A Majesty Fast Vanishing.



A Father and Son.



A Young Type Now Extinct.



Learning the White Man's Trade, United States Indian School.



Far Along on the Trail.

and all which that implies. This chief judge knows them all by name and deed and reputation. His judgment will be from the standpoint of a father. On his one hand will be seated a special agent of the Indian service, an official with a broad knowledge of red men in general, whose duty has taken him up and down the great Western trail many a time and oft, and who can accurately measure one tribe against another. He will judge from the viewpoint of a critic. And on the other side will sit the lay member of the tribunal, a private citizen from the near community, who has an intimate acquaintance with the tribe, and who is familiar with its reputation among the whites with whom it deals. His viewpoint will be that of a neighbor. Such will be the personnel of the court, and while it sits no brave or squaw who is of age can be denied the privilege of mounting the scales of its blindingly weighty justice.

Interesting Questions Asked. The list of catchwords put to Poor Lo is as much longer than his arm as the honorable court chooses to string it out. He assures his judges that he is self-supporting, but they

must be shown. How is his self-support obtained? How much has he improved his land? How much does he owe, and how much security has he given? How promptly did he pay up when in debt before, and the time before that? What rent would he charge if he leased his allotted land, and what price would he demand if he sold it? Those hundred acres inherited five years ago from his father were sold for how much and how was the money invested? Just why does he want his allotment just now—have any speculators been after him, or any other prospective purchasers? Has he made any contract with them? To whom and for how much? Why did he put that figure on it? How much whiskey has he drank in the past year, and how often has he been drunk in his life? Does he treat his squaw well, and how many has he had?

Mrs. Lo appears and tells her story. Did she attend school and how many the papooses? How much inherited property had she and did she ever sell it? How much land did she have? What did he do with it? Would she let him get her allotment away from her? Has he been a good husband and father? And so it will go until the learned commissioners get their heads together over the final problem—considering his past record, his associates and the advantages he has made, can this Indian be trusted to manage his own affairs? If we set him adrift, will he catch the suckers or will he be swallowed by the sharks? Or will he paddle his own canoe safely between the Scylla of land grabbers and the Charybdis of the rum seller?

Divided Into Three Classes. Then the final verdict. At the end of the session Poor Lo is away to the formal posting of the list which brands him as a sheep, a goat or a near-goat—near-sheep, if you will, for it's a hybrid 'twixt Ovis and Capra. In other words, he is listed first, second or third class, just like a steamship cabin or a European railway compartment. If the verdict of the majority of the court upon a full bench be that he is a first-class Indian, it means that the judges found him so far advanced and so well able to handle his own business as to properly assume the responsibilities of citizenship, including suffrage.

If listed as second class, he is deemed hardly competent as yet to be entirely freed from the protective influences of government, and is placed on probation, pending further development. But if branded as third class the meaning is that he has been found to be a non-competent, a non-progressive, with absolute need of every protection which government has to throw around him. And what does the label carry with it? If of the first class he gets a fee simple title to his land allotment and all of the privileges of citizenship. If of the third class the government will supervise the lease or sale of his lands, as well as the expenditure of every cent derived from the transaction, and will exercise every authority of guardianship to protect him from his own incompetency.

Training Probationers for Citizenship. A thorough course of sprouts has been devised for each national ward of the second class. He will be kept in constant training and will be helped along the trail toward liberty as rapidly as government can speed him. His lands will be held in trust but he will be allowed to go out and find a posse, and under the superintendent's critical eye he will draw up the papers himself. Then, having progressed further, his guardian may sell his lands for him, if a good price is offered, and he will do the practical work of carrying out this deal, such as seeing to the proper drawing of the deed. And although unable as yet to spend the proceeds as he sees fit, he must go out and find the proper bank in which to deposit the first class he gets. He must learn to open the account, and although allowed to check his money out upon the superintendent's permission, he will be allowed to draw the checks before bringing them to that official to be countersigned. Next, as he grows to understand values, he will be permitted to buy things for himself under less and less restriction. And gradually, larger and larger allowances of money will be turned over to him for his daily purposes, his self-reliance

growing all the while, until the great moment arrives when his superintendent can conscientiously recommend him to the Secretary of the Interior as competent to hold property rights and citizenship unrestrained, and these privileges that high official can then grant him without further examination or ceremony.

Such is the interesting process which Robert G. Valentine, the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, believe will go far toward solving the vexed "Indian problem."

Old Method Turned Out Bad Lot. Understand, first, that each Indian is allowed to go out upon his reservation, or other designated lands, and select his allotment, much as the homesteader selects his government land, but these allotments have been held in trust for him, generally for a quarter century, during which time he has been unable to get a title so he sees it. For about twenty years the government awarded citizenship to each Indian as soon as he got his allotment, at the very beginning of this trust period, during which it was to be held under government guardianship. In other words, Congress gave him the privileges of citizenship rights although it deemed him incompetent to even hold property rights until a generation of time should pass over his head, and thus a sad lot of red citizens and red voters were turned out as it was not uncommon for an Indian agent here and there to "throw" the red vote to the party to whom he owed his job. Theodore Roosevelt was one of those who were horrified by these conditions which he observed during a trip in the West with Herbert Welsh, of Philadelphia, the eminent Indian-loving philanthropist, who was then, as now, at the head of the Indian Rights Association. Mr. Roosevelt, who was civil service commissioner when Mr. Welsh showed him this condition of affairs, saw that it during his administration not only that the Indian agents were put out of business, but that the wards of the nation should not receive citizenship until deemed competent to exercise

property rights and receive fee-simple patents to their allotted lands. For several years the Indians' competency has been passed upon in individual cases, but lately the applicants for the test have been so many that another expedient had to be devised. Recently tried among 700 of the So the commission experiment was Omaha, 370 of whom were listed as first-class, 200 as second-class and only 130 as third-class men. Thus a majority got their citizenship, and now another competency commission is about to examine the Umatilla reservation, in Oregon. Ultimately each reservation containing a reasonable number of progressive Indians will be sorted out in the same manner.

Our 162,000 Indian Voters. We already have 162,123 red citizens, they tell me at the Indian bureau. This means that less than half the 300,000 Indians of the country remain wards of the nation. About 10,000 of their citizenship rights under the general allotment act of 1887, and nine years ago a special act made citizens of all members of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian territory, now Oklahoma, which new State thus got about 117,000 Indian citizens.

Over 45,000 Indian Voters This Fall. This fall about 45,000 Indians will have a vote, 32,800 of these casting their ballots in Oklahoma, where most of the redskins are Democrats.

This privilege of the ballot is one that only the States can confer, but Indians to whom the competency commissions award citizenship and their lands in severalty, will thereafter have no difficulty in voting save in New Mexico and Nevada, which ban all of their race from the polls, and in Louisiana, where the "grandfather clause" refuses the ballot to citizens whose father or grandfather were not entitled to vote on January 1, 1867.

Noted Bald Spot Coming on Head. Interesting Story of Consultation with Dermatologist and Successful Use of Cuticura. Also Case of Severe Itchy Poisoning, Relief of Which by Cuticura was Permanent.

"Nine years ago I noticed a bald spot coming on my head and as I was getting on in years, it did not seem natural, as it was on the side of my head instead of on top. My mother advised me to see a dermatologist and I did so, one of the best in Boston, and he said it was due to a germ I must have got at the barber's. He couldn't assure a cure, but by treating each hair separately with electricity, he said, the hair might come out white or gray. It came out at all. He proposed giving me a treatment every month for six months at ten dollars a treatment. When he should have advised me to use Cuticura and this I did, using Cuticura Soap and Ointment every day. In two months my hair commenced to grow, and in six months it was all over. I have known there had been no trouble, the hair coming out being black, the exact shade of my own. I have never had any trouble since, and feel I can't say half enough for Cuticura."

"Another member of our family was terribly poisoned by poison ivy and every summer for six years the blisters came, burning and causing great suffering. We tried everything recommended by the best physicians, but with no good result. Finally we tried Cuticura and obtained relief in a very short time which was permanent. She has never had any trouble since. Cuticura is invaluable to us, you see. G. J. Browne, 1 Remington St., Dorchester, Mass., Jan. 29, 1910."

This letter is but one of hundreds giving proof of the success of the Cuticura Remedies in treating the skin and scalp. Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

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I am a woman. I know women's sufferings. I will mail, free of any charge, my home treatment with full instructions to any suffering woman's ailments. I want to tell you how to cure yourselves at home without the help of a doctor. Men cannot understand women's sufferings. What women know from experience, we know better than any doctor. I know that my home treatment is a safe and sure cure for Leucorrhoea or White Discharges, Ulceration, Displacement or Falling of the Womb, Profuse, Scanty or Irregular Periods, Uterine or Ovarian Tumors or Growths, also pains in the head, back and bowels, bearing down feeling, nervousness, creeping feeling up the spine, melancholy, desire to cry, hot flashes, weariness, kidney and bladder troubles, when caused by weaknesses peculiar to our sex.

I want to send you a complete ten day's treatment entirely free to prove to you that you can cure yourself at home, easily, quickly and surely. Remember, that it will cost you nothing to give the treatment a complete trial; and if you should wish to continue, it will cost you only about 10 cents a week, or less than two cents a day. It will not interfere with your work or occupation. Just give me your name and address, tell me how you suffer if you wish, and I will send you the treatment for your case, entirely free, in plain wrapper, by return mail. I will also send you free of cost, my book—"WOMAN'S OWN MEDICAL ADVISOR," with explanatory illustrations showing how to use the treatment, and how they can easily cure themselves at home. Every woman should have it and learn to suffer for herself. Then when the doctor says—"You must have an operation," you can decide for yourself. Thousands of women have cured themselves with my home remedy. It cures all old or young. To Mothers of Daughters, I will explain a simple home treatment which speedily and effectually cures Leucorrhoea, Green Discharge and Painful or Irregular Menstruation in Young Ladies. Phosphorus and health results from its use.

Wherever you live, I can refer you to ladies of your own locality who know and will gladly tell you sufferings that this Home Treatment really cures all women's diseases, and makes women well, strong, plump and robust. Just send me your address, and the free ten day's treatment is yours just the book. Write today, as you may not see this offer again. Address—

MRS. M. SUMMERS, Box, H. Notre Dame, Ind. U. S. A.

ing pointed at the row of gaping Indian schools, of which there is one for every day in the year. (Copyright, 1910, by John Elfreth Watkins.)

Winchester Social News.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Winchester, Va., August 20.—Mrs. Thomas Bockel, of Richmond, has been visiting at the home of her brother and sister, former Senator Charles J. Faulkner, Judge E. Boyd Faulkner, and Mrs. Virginia M. Faulkner, at Martinsburg, and will probably spend some time with relatives and friends in Winchester before returning to her home.

Mrs. Elizabeth Horsey, of Winchester, and her guest, Miss Neale, of Richmond, have been visiting friends in West Virginia during the past week.

Mrs. Edgar Snapp and daughter, Miss Snapp, have returned to Winchester after visiting relatives and friends at Staunton.

Mrs. J. C. Eastham, of Winchester, has gone to Rawley Springs, near Harrisonburg, for several weeks.

Misses Frances and Grace Larick left Winchester on Wednesday to visit relatives and friends in Washington and Baltimore.

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S.S.S. FOR SUMMER SKIN DISEASES

Smooth, healthy skins are a rarity in Summer. Most persons are annoyed with pimples, boils, rashes or eruptions, while others suffer more severely with Eczema, Acne, Tetter, Salt Rheum, or some kindred skin disease. All skin affections come from humors and acids in the circulation. The blood, as it circulates through the system, deposits these acids and humors in the sensitive membrane flesh which lies just beneath the outer skin or tissue covering the body. This acid matter causes inflammation and a discharge which breaks through the delicate cuticle, and skin diseases are the result. To cure any skin trouble the blood must be freed from all acids and humors, and for this purpose nothing equals S.S.S. This great blood purifier goes down into the circulation and completely removes every particle of impurity, enriches the blood and in this way permanently cures skin diseases. S.S.S. cures, because it purifies the blood, allows it to nourish, soothe, and soften the skin instead of irritating it with fiery acids and humors. Book on Skin Diseases and any medical advice free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.



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